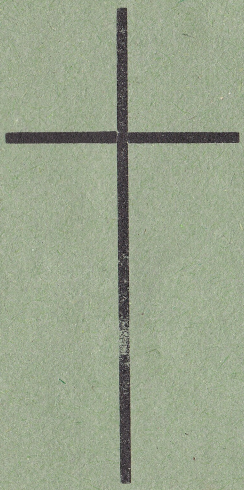
ST. STEPHEN'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MILNROW

The Messenger



APRIL, 1971

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THE MESSENGER

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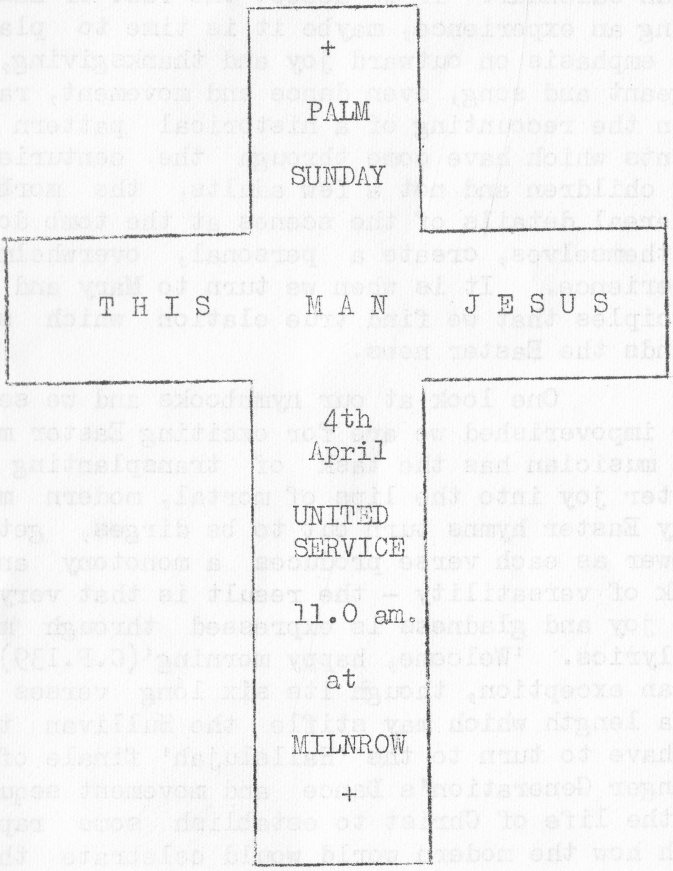

APRIL

1971

Price 2p

Dear Friends,

Easter is not only an event, it is an experience. If it had only been an event, its place would have remained in the history books alongside Julius Ceasar, Mark Anthony and the tantalising Cleopatra.

It is to our loss and shame that we don't place more emphasis on Easter in the Christian Calendar. If we accept the fact of Easter being an experience, maybe it is time to place the emphasis on outward joy and thanksgiving, pageant and song, even dance and movement, rather than the recounting of a historical pattern of events which have come through the centuries. For children and not a few adults, the morbid, funereal details of the scenes at the tomb do not, of themselves, create a personal, overwhelming experience. It is when we turn to Mary and the disciples that we find true elation which surrounds the Easter news.

One look at our hymnbooks and we see how impoverished we are for exciting Easter music. The musician has the task of transplanting the Easter joy into the lips of mortal, modern man. Many Easter hymns turn out to be dirges, getting slower as each verse produces a monotony and a lack of versatility - the result is that very little joy and gladness is expressed through music or lyrics. 'Welcome, happy morning'(C.P.139) maybe an exception, though its six long verses give it a length which may stifle the Sullivan tune. We have to turn to the 'Hallelujah' finale of the Younger Generation's Dance and movement sequence on the life of Christ to establish some rapport with how the modern world would celebrate the Easter experience in song.

What we would expect from Easter is summed up in the words: 'Jesus is alive.' He is alive in Rochdale, Belfast or Capetown. If the Easter experience doesn't revitalise us, then nothing will. Take this glorious fact out of

the Christian Church, and the Church is so much rubble and firewood. Remember Paul's words: "If Christ is not risen, our preaching is in vain." All of us - no-one excepted - at St. Stephen's and at Littleborough need the vital experience of the alive Christ. Our churches need to be revolutionised by his bold thinking. It is sad that, sometimes, it is our own conservatism, lack of faith, our fears for the future which hold back the central demands of the Gospel. If the statement that 'there are more cynics inside the church than outside' is true, then we can only blame our lack of faith in the Risen Spirit of our Lord. Now's the chance to prove the cynics wrong: Easter 1971... Christ is still very much alive.

Yours sincerely,

Glyn Jenkins

IN MEMORIAM

EDITH CROSS of 73 Royds Street, Milnrow aged 71 years. Mrs. Cross passed away in Birch Hill on Tuesday 9th March. The news of her sudden death came as a shock to us all. Mrs. Cross has been a member of St. Stephen's for over 35 years and has been tireless in her endeavours for the church. She was a member of the Choir and Ladies Guild as well as being responsible for sending out birthday gifts and cards to the elderly members of our church. She will be dearly missed from our fellowship. The funeral took place on Tuesday 16th March, at St. Stephen's and the Rochdale Crematorium, our minister officiating. Our sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. H.Cross, Miss Molly Wood and all the relatives.

HOLY BAPTISM

Joanne Scaddon, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. K. Scaddon of 3, Newfield View. Our minister officiated at the baptism on March 7th 1971.

RECEPTION INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

At St. Stephen's

on 7th February, 1971

Mr. W. Holland,
1, Sheriff Street.

Mrs. Annie Brown,
6 Beechfield Road.

Mr. Edgar Braund,
83 Royds Street,

Mrs. Beryl Lucas &
Mr. Barry Lucas,
16 Egremont Road.

- all on Confession of Faith

At Littleborough

on 28th February, 1971

Mrs. Nora Mellor,
91 Victoria Street.

- on transfer from Summit Cong. Church

on 14th March, 1971

Mr. John M. Tomlinson,
5 Barnabas Drive.

- on Confession of Faith

We welcome all these friends into our church and promise them our prayers and co-operation.

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday, 4th April: 11.00 am. at MILNROW

UNITED SERVICE (Milnrow & Littleborough)

A Pageant: "THIS MAN JESUS"

Palm Sunday:	6.00 pm.	MILNROW - Communion
Maundy Thursday:	7.30 pm.	MILNROW - Communion (Littleborough friends welcome)
Good Friday:	9.30 am.	LITTLEBOROUGH
	10.45 am.	MILNROW
Easter Day:	10.30 am.	LITTLEBOROUGH - (Family Communion)
	11.00 am.	MILNROW - (Mrs.E.Gillon)

"THRIFT SHOP"

- Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th April.

TIMETABLE FOR A WEEK OF ACTION

MONDAY: Wanted... CHILDREN & ADULTS to distribute leaflets. Meet at 6.30 p.m.

Wanted... CAR OWNERS & CARS to collect goods from Monday onwards.

WEDNESDAY: Wanted... ALL AVAILABLE HANDS for displaying and pricing goods. From 7.0 pm. Wednesday and on Thursday morning.

THURSDAY: Sale opens 2.00 pm. to 5.00 pm.
6.30 pm. to 8.00 pm.

FRIDAY: 2.00 pm. to 5.00 pm.
6.30 pm. to 8.00 pm.

SATURDAY: Clearance Sale 10.00 am. to Noon.

We are looking for:

GOOD QUALITY CLOTHES
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You can help by:

a) Springcleaning now! Not only the house but the garage and shed as well.
b) Knitting up those odd bits of wool - it's not too late yet.
c) Making posters for windows.
d) Helping behind the "Thrift Shop" counter, especially on Thursday when it will be busiest.
e) Letting us have your surplus 'Green Shield Stamps'

LAY PREACHERS KEPT BUSY

Mrs. E. Gillon and Mr. A. Roberts are much in demand in other churches pulpits this quarter and wish to thank all those at St. Stephens who might be called upon to undertake various duties on their behalf from time to time.

On the 18th and 19th April they will be attending the Annual Lay Preachers' Conference at Manchester College and Mrs. Gillon has been asked to chair the Sunday morning session. She will be introducing Rev. J. Figures whose topic will be "Preaching as Communication".....(Well, it figures!)

****

GO ON - VOLUNTEER THEN!

We have a few vacancies, as they say, for door stewards and coffee bar assistants for Sunday mornings. No uniform, superannuation, overtime or wages, but the work is pleasant, the atmosphere friendly and you only work for about half an hour per month. If you come to church in the mornings ask to be put on a rota.

****

PLEDGE DECIMAL

Inflation also affects churches. The treasurer estimates that this year's expenditure will be £300 higher than last year. Faced with this problem, the Finance Committee have agreed to undertake an "Every Person Canvas" with a view to increasing involvement in the "Free Will Offering" or "Covenant Giving Schemes." Many helpers will be required for this project.
See next month's "Messenger" for more information.

****

LADIES! DON'T GO TO CHURCH..... ..... on Tuesday, April 6th. Be at the station instead to catch the 7.09 p.m. train to Manchester, for the Ladies Guild visit to "Scholl" .....(Shoes! not Booze!)

SIDESMEN FOR MORNING WORSHIP

April	4th	Counc.J. Harrison	Counc. I. Royle
	11th	Mr. J. Collins	Mrs. A. Collins
	18th	Mr. W. Holland	Mr. W. Prince
	25th	Mr. L. Whittaker	Mrs. F. Rae
May	2nd	Mr. H. Mellor	Mr. A. Bruckshaw

DEACONS ROTA

		Evening Door Stewards	Vestry Duty
April	4th	Mrs. E. Gillon Mrs. E. Starkie	--
	11th	No Evening Service	
	18th	Mr. G. Whitworth Mr. J. Emmott	--
	25th	No Evening Service Littleborough Anniversary	
May	2nd	Mrs. A. Wilson Miss M. Wood	--

COMMUNION ROTA

April	4th	Mr. K. Hey
		Mr. A. Roberts
	8th	Mr. H. Whitehead
		Mr. G. Whitworth
May	2nd	Mr. B. Clough
		Mr. G. Whitworth

ORGANIST TRANSPORT ROTA

April 4th Mr. K. Hey

PIANIST- EVENING WORSHIP

April 18th Mrs. C. Hey
May 2nd Mrs. E.Starkie

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

April	4th	Mrs. W. Prince	Mrs. W. Holland
	11th	Mrs. A. Wood	Mrs. A. Collins
	18th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. D. Hey
	25th	Mrs. H. Whitehead	Mrs. Greenhalgh
May	2nd	Mrs. Graham	Mrs. Melvin

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

April	4th	Miss L. Cross Mrs. E. King	Mr. K. Hey
	11th	Mr. Heaton	
	18th	Mrs. B. Stott	Mrs. A. Prestwich
	25th	Mrs. M. Lea	Mrs. B. Memory
May	2nd	Mrs. S. Jenkins	

April

Sun. 4th 11.00 am. UNITED SERVICE
6.00 pm. Communion Service
Tues. 6th Ladies Guild visit to "Scholl" Foot Services, Manchester. (See page 6)
Thur. 8th 7.30 pm. MAUNDY THURSDAY - Communion
Fri. 9th 10.45 am. GOOD FRIDAY - Rev. G. Jenkins
Sun. 11th 11.00 am. EASTER DAY - Mrs. E. Gillon
NO EVENING SERVICE
Wed. 14th 7.30 pm. Deacons Meeting
Fri. 16th 7.30 pm. Finance Committee Meeting
Sat. 17th County Lay Preachers' Conference at The Congregational College, Manchester.
Sun. 18th 11.00 am. Rev. G. Jenkins (Sacrament of Baptism)
6.00 pm. Rev. G. Jenkins
Mon. 19th 8.00 pm. Home Study Course (Standard only) at 31 Ladyhouse Close, Milnrow.
Tues. 20th 3.00 pm. Ladies Auxiliary at Bamford.
Wed. 21st 7.30 pm. Rochdale Christian Education Council - Champness Hall.
22nd - 24th THRIFT SHOP
Thur. 22nd 2.0 - 5.0 p.m. 6.30 - 8.0 p.m.
Fri. 23rd 2.0 - 5.0 p.m. 6.30 - 8.0 p.m.
Sat. 24th 10.0 - 12.0 noon: Clearance Sale.
Fri. 23rd) Sat. 24th) Lancs.Cong. Union Assembly - Crosby
Sun. 25th 11.00 am. Rev. T. Vause
No Evening Service (Littleborough Anniversary)
Wed. 28th 2.45 pm. Lancs.Cong. Union-Womens Guild Rally at Waterloo, Liverpool.
8.00 pm. Church Meeting

May

Sat. 1st Worship '71 Conference, Manchester.
Sun. 2nd 11.00 am. Family Worship- Rev. G. Jenkins
6.00 pm. Communion "

OFFERTORIES

Feb.	Cash	Envelopes	Feb.	Cash	Envelopes
7th	£6.97	£13.28	21st	£3.10	£9.79
14th	£4.25	£12.27	28th	£4.43	£14.58

April

Fri.	2nd	7.00 pm.	Jumble Sale (Junior Church)
Sun.	4th	11.00 am.	UNITED SERVICE AT MILNROW
Tue.	6th	7.30 pm.	Ladies Guild
Thur.	8th	6.00 pm.	Pilots
Fri.	9th	9.30 am.	GOOD FRIDAY - Rev. G. Jenkins
Sun.	11th	10.30 am.	EASTER DAY - Rev. G. Jenkins (Communion)
Thur.	15th	8.00 pm.	House Group
		6.00 pm.	Pilots
Sat.	17th	Midnight?	"Honresfield" Marathon Walk
Sun.	18th	10.30 am.	Lay Preacher
Tues.	20th	7.45 pm.	Lingerie Fashion Show
Thur.	22nd	6.00 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	25th		JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
		10.30am.	"All Aboard"
		6.00 pm.	Rev. G. Jenkins
Thur.	29th	6.00 pm.	Pilots
		7.45 pm.	Men's Fellowship

May

Sun.	2nd	10.30 am.	Lay Preacher
Tues.	4th	7.30 pm.	Ladies Guild (Birthday Supper)

COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

April	11th	Mrs. Priestley
	18th	Mrs. W. Barker
	25th	JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
May	2nd	Mrs. R. Holt

OFFERTORIES

Feb.	21st	£8.14	
	28th	£10.62	
March	7th	£15.26	(Ladies Services)

****

ALL RUSH AT ONCE

Autumn Fair coupons are now available from Mrs. Crossley

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

SIDESMEN

April	11th	Mr. E. Holt	Mr. H. Hill
	18th	Mr. Nairn	Mr. A. Booth
	25th	JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY	
May	2nd	Mr. Ingham	Mr. Brown

DEACONS COMMUNION ROTA

April	11th	Mr. Nairn	Mr. Barker 10.30 am.
May	9th	Mr. Beattie	Mr. Simpson 6.00 pm.

COFFEE ROTA

April	4th	United service at Milnrow	
	11th	Mrs. B. Hartley	Mrs. S. Moss
	18th	Mrs. A. Wall	Mrs. J. Law
	25th	Mrs. M. Beattie	Mrs. M.G. Hill
May	2nd	Mrs. J. Hobbs	Mrs. J. Horridge

CRECHE ROTA

April	11th	Brenda Leach	Ann Tomlinson
	18th	Dorothy Mallinson	Elizabeth Crawford
	25th	Hilary Vincent	
May	2nd	Beryl Hartley	Stella Moss

****

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

April	11th	"Jesus Overcomes Death" Matt. 28: 1 - 10	Mrs. P. Lightfoot
	18th	"Life in Christ Triumphant" 2 Corinthians 4: 1 -15	Mr. F. Simpson
	25th	JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY	
May	2nd	"Use your intelligence" Luke 12: 35-40 & 54-57	Steven Moss

Readings from "Good News for Modern Man"

****

WHAT SORT OF MESSENGER?

Are you a speaking, serving, singing or silent messenger for Jesus? That was the question put to the congregation at morning service on March 7th by the visiting preacher, Mrs. Gascoigne. On that occasion, which was Ladies' Sunday, there was plenty of evidence to show that all kinds of messengers abound at Littleborough. Apart from Mrs. Gascoigne the other "speaking messager" was Mrs. Wilkinson, the wife of the minister of Castleton Congregational Church, who took the afternoon service and spoke about several of the women mentioned in the Bible - "serving messengers" no doubt. The "singing messengers," of course, were our own Ladies' Choir who, in the best traditions of Violet Carson and Stars on Sundays gave a rendering of "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" and sang the introit at both morning and afternoon services. The nearest thing to a "silent messenger" was the discretely concealed organist, Mr. Greaves, who in the best tradition of the silent and indispensable male provided suitable accompaniment and background music.

JUNIOR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday 25th April - 10.30 am. & 6.00 pm.

PREACHER: Rev. G. Jenkins B.A., B.D.

At 10.30 am. "ALL ABOARD"
presented by the Junior Church

THANK YOU

The Junior Church extend their thanks to the Busy Bees for the gift of a large new convector fire, for the vestry.

****

PANTOSALE JUMBLEMIME

The Junior Church are holding a Jumbe Sale on Friday, 2nd April to raise money for the "Pantomime Fund." Dames and other helpers needed.

"LET THEM EAT CAKE!"

Our informant tells us that there were a lot more Ladies Guild members at the Birthday Supper in February than at the Annual General Meeting in March. The fact is easy to report but we are not sure what to make of it. Should we lament that so many ladies neglect their democratic obligations or rejoice that the womenfolk still realise that eating is far more worthwhile than meeting? On balance we feel that we ought not to look for trouble on this issue but it does seem to indicate that "Women's Lib" has not yet struck Littleborough.

The female inclination towards stability was further emphasised at the A.G.M., when all the officials were re-elected en bloc, as follows:-

President Treasurer & Flower Rota	-	Mrs. C. Hill
Vice President	-	Mrs. K. Hill
Secretary Flower distribution	-	Mrs. A. Stott
Auditors	-	(Mrs. E. Whitehead (Mrs. E. Holt
Pianist	-	Mrs. E. Cockcroft
Sick Visitor	-	Mrs. Beattie

Politicing over, the ladies brought their evening to an end with the inevitable supper provided by Mesdames C. Hill, A. Stott and E. Crossley.

LINGERIE FASHION SHOW

Tuesday, 20th April..... 7.45 p.m.

Tickets 12½p
Available from a Busy Bee
or at the entrance to the hive.

Bring Your Friends...Proceeds for Church Funds

LAP OF HONRESFIELD

Please sponsor those who take part in the "Honresfield" Annual Marathon walk - 25 miles -on April 17th. We are not sure whether this constitutes advertising or not, but we are told that Mr. H. Hill will be stri-

A STORY FOR EASTER

Though only the daughter of an inn-keeper, her son became the first Christian Roman Emporer, Constantine. At the age of 80 she made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, possibly to make expiation for the crimes of her son, who had killed both his own son and his wife. She is said to have built churches on the sites of the Passion, the Resurrection and the Ascension, and to have discovered the wood of the true cross. According to a fifth century legend all three crosses were found, but nobody could say which was which. At her suggestion a piece from each cross was brought to a sick woman who was cured on touching the wood of the true cross.

Who was she?

Before you turn to page 15 for the answer you may find it to be a useful clue to know that she was canonised, and a South Atlantic island named after her became the home of an exiled emporer.

A POEM FOR EASTER

In the garden under the green tree
quick with life my Lord stood smiling;
but I turned and chose another
with its fruit my heart beguiling.

On the hill-top, stretched on a cruel tree
leafless, stark, my Lord hung dying;
in my hands the spear and hammer,
angry hands his love denying

In the garden, dark in the cold tomb,
silent, still my Lord lay wasting;
and the fruit that I had chosen
proved too bitter in the tasting.

In the garden, under the green tree,
quick with life my Lord stands waiting;
life to set my cold heart burning,
love to conquer all my hating.

****

C.C.W.M.

NOT A BRAIN DRAIN BUT A LIFELINE

Are you training to be a teacher?... doctor?..... nurse?...secretary?... technician?...government officer?...business manager?..veterinary surgeon? ...farmer?...engineer?...bookseller?

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for training and general hospitals, infants and maternity clinics, leprosy hospitals, health education and general medical work often involving travel under difficult conditions.

INDIA needs:

Community Development Workers
Men with agricultural qualifications, preferably degree and experience, interested in all aspects of community life in villages.

For further information write to Miss Mary Cumber, Livingstone House, 11 Carteret Street, LONDON S.W.1.

If you don't fit into any of these jobs PRAY that.. ..."Men and women of faith and appropriate professional qualifications may be led both to missionary service through the Council and to share in mission in 'secular' appointments overseas."

(from Congregational Prayer Fellowship Handbook)

Age is a quality of mind,
If you have left your dreams behind,
If hope is cold,
If you no longer plan ahead,
If your ambitions are all dead,
Then you are OLD.

But if you make of life the best,
And in your heart you still have zest,
If love you hold,
No matter how the years go by,
No matter how the birthdays fly,
You ARE NOT OLD.

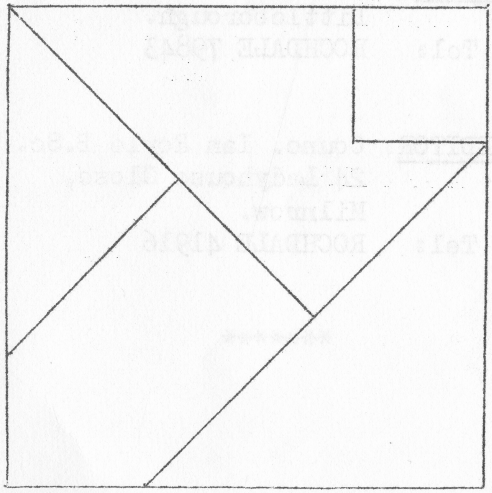
THINK ABOUT IT

"Mollyduckers" "Cuddies" "Keggywhifterd"
"_____Paws" "Cack_____"

-----All the above are the same thing. Fill in the blanks and say what they have in common.

*

Last Month's "Think About It"



A Story for Easter - page 13.... St. Helena

ST. STEPHEN'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MILNROW

and

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, LITTLEBOROUGH

MINISTER: Rev. Glyn Jenkins B.A., B.D.,
The Manse,
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Tel: ROCHDALE 50161

CHURCH SECRETARY: Mr. Allan Roberts,
- MILNROW 54 Beechfield Road,
Milnrow.
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

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- LITTLEBOROUGH 63 Shore Mount,
Littleborough.
Tel: ROCHDALE 79843

MESSENGER EDITOR: Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.),
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****

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